

REMARKS

This Amendment filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 is in response to the Final Office Action dated December 1, 2003. For the reasons given below, this Application should be considered in condition for allowance and the case passed to issue.

The allowance of claims 21 and 22 is gratefully acknowledged. Claims 10-11, 15-17, and 19-20 have been amended to depend from allowed claim 22. The re-depended claims further define and limit allowed claim 22. Accordingly, these claims should also be considered in condition for allowance and allowed by the Examiner. Such action is courteously solicited. Furthermore, since these claims merely are re-dependent upon a previously allowed claim, the amendments made to these claims to re-depend them from claim 22 do not raise any new issues in the Application.

Claims 1-9, 12-14, 18 and 23 are cancelled. Claims 10-11, 15-17, and 19-20, have been amended to depend from allowed claim 22. Hence, only claims that have been allowed or depend from allowed claims remain in the Application. The various rejections of the claims have therefore been mooted.


In light of the Amendments and Remarks above, this Application should be considered in condition for allowance and the case passed to issue. If there are any questions regarding this Amendment or the Application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated to expedite the prosecution of the Application.

10/042,168

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

MCDERMOTT, WILL & EMERY



John A. Harkins
Registration No. 32,029

600 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-3096
(202) 756-8000 JAH:bjs
Facsimile: (202) 756-8087
Date: February 19, 2004